

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A striking tool comprising:
  - a handle;
  - a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; and
  - a generally curved shank connecting the handle to the head.
2. The striking tool of Claim 1 wherein a grip is disposed on the handle.
3. The striking tool of Claim 1 wherein the handle is an elongate curved handle.
4. The striking tool of Claim 1 wherein the handle defines a skeletal ribbed structure, the skeletal ribbed structure having interstitial spaces.  
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5. The striking tool of Claim 4 wherein a grip is disposed on the handle so that the grip is partially within the interstitial spaces.
6. The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the curved shank is integral with the handle so as to provide a unitary piece.  
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7. The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the curved shank has a groove at the end opposite the end of the handle.
8. The striking tool of Claim 7, wherein the groove accepts a gasket which is injection molded into the groove.  
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9. The striking tool of Claim 8, wherein the head is fixed within the groove of the shank.  
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10. The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the head is forged.
11. The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

12. The striking tool of Claim 10, wherein the forged head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.
13. The striking tool of Claim 6, wherein the unitary piece encases a pultrusion.
14. The striking tool of Claim 13, wherein the pultrusion is a pultruded rod.
- 5 15. A striking tool comprising:
  - a handle;
  - a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; wherein the head includes an overstrike flange, and
  - a generally curved shank connecting the handle to the head.
- 10 16. The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein a grip is disposed on the handle.
17. The striking tool of Claim 15 wherein the handle is an elongate curved handle.
18. The striking tool of Claim 15 wherein the handle defines a skeletal ribbed structure, the skeletal ribbed structure having interstitial spaces.
- 15 19. The striking tool of Claim 18 wherein a grip is disposed on the handle so that the grip is partially within the interstitial spaces.
20. The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the curved shank is integral with the handle so as to provide a unitary piece.
21. The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the curved shank has a groove at the end opposite the end of the handle.
22. The striking tool of Claim 21, wherein the groove accepts a gasket which is injection molded into the groove.

23. The striking tool of Claim 22, wherein the head is fixed within the groove of the shank.

24. The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the head is forged.

25. The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

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26. The striking tool of Claim 24, wherein the forged head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

27. The striking tool of Claim 20, wherein the unitary piece encases a pultrusion.

28. The striking tool of Claim 27, wherein the pultrusion is a pultruded rod.

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29. A method for making a striking tool having a reduced vibrational Shock Factor, comprising the steps of:

providing a generally curved handle;

molding a grip onto the handle;

providing a generally curved shank;

15 connecting the shank to the handle;

providing a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; and

connecting the head to the shank.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the weight center is disposed between a longitudinal centerline and the striking surface.

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31. The method of Claim 29, wherein the curved shank includes a groove at the end opposite the end of the handle.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the groove accepts a gasket which is injection molded into the groove.

33. A striking tool comprising:

a handle;

5 a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; wherein the head includes and overstrike flange, and

a generally curved shank connecting the handle to the head;

wherein a horizontal plane is defined as the plane on which the striking tool rests when laid flat on its side; and

10 wherein a first cutting plane divides the cutting tool along the length of the striking tool, wherein the first cutting plane is perpendicular to the horizontal surface of the striking tool; and wherein a line which is intersected by the first cutting plane is defined by a first point positioned along a center line of the handle and a second point positioned along the center line of the handle, wherein the second point is vertically 2 inches up the handle as measured from the first point, and wherein the first point is separated by a vertical distance of 2 inches from a bottommost point, wherein the bottommost point is defined by a bottom edge of the handle, and

15 wherein the bottommost point is intersected by a line that is parallel to the first cutting plane.

20 34. The striking tool of Claim 33, wherein a top edge of the head defines a center point, wherein a second cutting plane which is perpendicular to the first cutting plane is disposed 2 inches down from the second center point.

35. The striking tool of Claim 34, wherein a head portion is defined by the second cutting plane, and wherein the head portion is further divided by the first cutting plane into a first region and a second region, wherein the first region is proximal to the striking surface, and wherein the second region is distal to the  
5 striking surface.

36. The striking tool of Claim 35, whercin the weight of the first region is at least 70 % of the sum of the weights of the first and second regions.

37. The striking tool of Claim 35, wherein the weight of the first region is at least 78 % of the sum of the weights of the first and second regions.

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